

Workingmen's Houses,
James Welsh House
616 Dodge Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-159-A0

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
14-A0-

DRAWINGS
PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

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Site Location:

616 Dodge Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 3.19
Cadastral grid : NW1/4 SE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.691720.4706820
Lot dimensions : 28'x 100' : .06 acre (Lot 1)
65'x 30' : .04 acre (Lot 15)
Lot description: Lot 1 and Lot 15 of Newman,
Cooper and Smyth's Subdivision
of Out Lot 695

Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation

Present Usage: vacant

Present Condition : fair

Overall Dimensions: 2-story main block: 18'1"x 28'2"; 1-story rear addition:
10'8"x 14'8".

Orientation : northwest

Architectural

Description :

Plan type : rectangular, corner-stair, 2-story, with
one-story rear addition.

Foundation: stone perimeter walls below grade.

Structure : wood frame with brick perimeter walls.

Ext. walls: common red brick laid in common bond.

Roofs : moderately pitched gable end roof over main
block; shallowly pitched hip roof over front/
side porch; flat composition roof with tile
copings on brick parapet walls.

Chimneys : one corbeled brick exterior end chimney
straddling roof at rear of main block.

Dormers : none

Windows : wood 4/4 double-hung windows with aluminum
storms throughout, with segmental brick arch
heads, plain enframements and stone lug sills.

Openings : single-leaf front door with transom and segmen-
tal arch head offset under porch; single-leaf
side door without transom; plain board enframe-
ments.

Porches : full-width, single-story wrap-around porch on
front and east side of main block; original
columns replaced with wrought iron supports;
deck replaced with concrete slab.

Details : boxed and molded cornices on main and porch
roofs.

Construction Date : c.1874

Architecture Style: Gable ended box

Physical History : In 1869 Dubuque capitalists A.A. Cooper, William Newman and Edward Smyth platted a fifteen-lot residential subdivision from a portion of Out Lot 695 near the corner of Bluff and Dodge streets. In April 1874 they sold Lot 1 to James Welsh for \$325. A drayman, Welsh probably built this small two-story brick house at this time. He lived here with his wife Catherine until his death in May 1892. Catherine continued to occupy the house until she, too, died in August 1923. Welsh's daughter Mary lived in the house briefly before the heirs sold the property to Jesse L. Glover in September 1926. Jesse and his wife Blanche lived here until the 1970s. The Iowa Department of Transportation has recently acquired the house for demolition. Over this extended occupation, the James Welsh House has undergone relatively few alterations and additions, the most significant of which are the construction of a one-story brick rear addition and the replacement of the original front porch in 1979.

Significance: With its brick construction and two-story configuration, the James Welsh House more closely resembles the middle class dwellings on Bluff and Main streets than the frame working class houses further east on Dodge Street. Its modest scale and double-pen floor plan, however, ties it with its immediate neighbors on Dodge. Relatively unaltered and well preserved, the building is a representative example of the houses built in south Dubuque in the 1870s and 1880s.

References:

Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-24-5-16.
Dubuque City Building Permit Record: 616 Dodge Street.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental
Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of
Transportation, Ames Iowa).

Compiler:

Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado.
September 1988.